



THE STATE OF UTAH
OFFICE OF STATE ENGINEER
SALT LAKE CITY

WAYNE D. CRIDDLE
STATE ENGINEER

January 11, 1961

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Wayne D. Criddle

FROM: Francis T. Mayo

Re: Hobble Creek Ditch near Heber
Strawberry River and Willow Creek
Ditches near Heber

In reviewing the current surface water cooperative program, it appears that we would be justified in discontinuing the operation of the two following gaging station facilities which measure diversions from the Strawberry River drainage to Daniel's Creek, a tributary of the Provo River:

1. Hobble Creek Ditch near Heber
2. Strawberry River and Willow Creek Ditches near Heber.

It is recommended that the operation of these facilities be immediately dropped from the present State Engineer-U.S.G.S. cooperative program for the following reasons:

1. The eleven years' continuous record since October, 1949, together with available climatological and snow survey data, should be sufficient to reasonably estimate the extent of future transbasin diversions through the use of the present diversion facilities.
2. Because of pick-up in the diversion canals during the snow-melt period and reported losses later in the season, the record is not one of diversions from the specific sources, but rather a record of deliveries to Daniel's Creek. The records would be of limited use in hydrologic studies involving the drainage areas above the points of diversion.
3. The records of diversions are not included in the Commissioners' reports for either the Duchesne-Strawberry Rivers or Provo River systems, and are evidently not used as the basis for determining water assessments.
4. There is urgent need to extend the surface water investigation program into other areas where basic hydrologic data is essential.

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It may be desirable to require continued operation by the water users themselves or by the water users in cooperation with the U.S.G.S. for the following reasons:

1. By agreement with the Strawberry Water Users' Association, dated July 21, 1952, the Daniel Irrigation Company has agreed to divert from the Strawberry River drainage not to exceed a total of 40,000 acre-feet for any consecutive ten-year period. The State of Utah is not a party to this agreement.
2. It is further agreed that, if the present measuring facilities are discontinued, the two parties will share the expense for taking, recording, and reporting the measurements.
3. The average total diversion past both gaging stations into Daniel's Creek for the 1950 to 1959 water-years is 3,270 acre-feet. The total individual water-year diversions range from a low of 2,285 acre-feet in 1954 to a high of 3,834 acre-feet in 1951. The 1960 water-year records are not yet available.
4. The present records were taken during a period that experienced a fairly wide range of varying conditions of precipitation and run-off, and it may be doubtful that any future consecutive ten-year period would result in the diversion of in excess of 40,000 acre-feet of water. The significance of the available records will very likely have an influence on any decision made by the companies to continue operation of the measuring facilities at their own expense.
5. The records made available by the U.S.G.S. are being included in the annual report of the Spanish Fork River Commissioner.

It is further recommended that the Strawberry River Water Users' Association, the Daniel Irrigation Company, and the Commissioners for the Spanish Fork, Provo, and Duchesne-Strawberry River systems be advised that the two above gaging stations will not continue to be operated under the State Engineer-U.S.G.S. cooperative program, and that we will be pleased to arrange for any meeting of the interested parties, should they feel that a meeting is desirable.

Francis T. Mayo, Chief
Water Resources Branch

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